(government hospitals/health programmes, health insurance etc.) This policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM). A Group of Ministers has been constituted.

Profits of pharma industry

†1997. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical industry has become one of the maximum profit making industries in the country in the past years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the rate of average annual economic growth in this industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Indian Pharma Machinery Industry is estimated to be having a turnover of Rs. 2000 Crores with a growth rate of 15%. It is meeting the international standards and exports are being made to both developing and developed countries.

The growth trends in the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry indicate that the average annual growth during the last three years has also been substantial as appears from the trend given below:—

Growth in Production of Pharmaceutical Industry

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Bulk Drugs	Formulations
1	2	3
2002-03	6529.00	24185.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
2003-04*	7729.00	27692.00
2004-05*	9034.00	31946.00

* Estimated

These figures do not include production from unorganized sector, which is estimated at an additional 35% of the production.

(Source BDMA Bulk Drug Industry at a Glance 2006)

Quality of rice through PDS

1998. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of rice distributed through the public distribution system under the Rs. 2.00 a kilo was of poor quality and unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had received any complaint in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, with a view to ensuring that only good quality foodgrains are issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution to consumers under public distribution system, the Government has taken following steps:—

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stock prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should